

Message Text

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60

ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 OMB-01 AID-20 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07

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R 252131Z APR 74

FM AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6915

INFO AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA

AMEMBASSY MANAGUA

AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR

USCINCSO

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEGUCIGALPA 1734

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, HO

SUBJECT: NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN NATIONALIST AND LIBERAL PARTIES

1. ON APRIL 24, RAFAEL BARDALES BUESO, PRESIDENT OF THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE OF THE NATIONALIST PARTY, INFORMED EMBOFF THAT NATIONALIST AND LIBERAL PARTIES ARE NEGOTIATING A JOINT AGREEMENT ON HOW TO CONFRONT THE LOPEZ REGIME. HE POINTED OUT THAT THE VICTORY OF MODESTO RODAS ALVARWYO IN THE LIBERAL CONVENTION PAVED THE WAY FOR SUCH NEGOTIATIONS BECAUSE OF RODAS' ESSENTIALLY RIGHTIST POSITION. BARDALES STATED THAT THE AGREEMENT WOULD DEVELOP A JOINT STRATEGY OF SEEKING TO ELIMINATE THE PRESENT REGIME AND REINTRODUCE FREE ELECTIONS AND A CONSTITUTIONAL GOVERNMENT. HE EMPHASIZED THAT THE NEGOTIATIONS ARE STILL IN PROGRESS, BUT THE PARTIES HAVE NOT YET REACHED A FINAL AGREEMENT. HE ADDED THAT THE NATIONALISTS WERE IN CONTACT WITH MILITARY LEADERS WHO ARE DISSATISFIED WITH THE GOVERNMENT'S DIRECTION.

2. COMMENT: THE NATIONALISTS HAD BEEN HOPING THAT RODAS

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WOULD WIN IN THE LIBERAL CONVENTION BECAUSE THE POLICIES

OF THE NATIONALISTS ARE MORE CLOSELY ATTUNED TO RODAS' VIEWPOINTS THAN TO THE POLICIES OF THE LIBERAL "DEMOCRATIC LEFT." IT IS PROBABLE THAT THE PARTIES WILL ARRIVE AT SOME KIND OF COMMON FRONT AGREEMENT THAT WILL ALLOW THEM INDIVIDUAL FREEDOM OF ACTION BUT AT THE SAME TIME COORDINATE THEIR ACTIONS. AT THE LEAST SUCH AN ARRANGEMENT WILL LEAD TO A MORE VOCAL AND ORGANIZED OPPOSITION TO THE REGIME.
SANCHEZ

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